



# Utah Department of Environmental Quality

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## AIR QUALITY FACTOIDS

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### I. Emissions

1. Commuters driving 20 miles each way to work contribute 1.69 pounds of pollutants to the atmosphere each day. That is 405.6 pounds of hydro-carbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxides each year. ([www.p2pays.org/ref/20/19940.htm](http://www.p2pays.org/ref/20/19940.htm))
3. Transportation contributes approximately one-third of national carbon emissions. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/aqfactbk/page13.htm>)
4. Vehicle exhaust contributes roughly 60% of all carbon monoxide emissions nationwide, and up to 95% in cities. (<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/10/26/fyi/main2126583.shtml>)
5. Sixty percent (60%) of the pollution created by autos happens in the first few minutes of operation, before pollution control devices can work effectively. (TREK Bicycle Corporation) (<http://www.trifuel.com/people/jonathanfit/blog/2009/04/03/18512/trek-biking-facts-bike-commuting-5-reasons-to-bike-your-dri>)

### II. Gasoline Consumption

1. The average number of barrels of oil consumed daily in the United States is 17 million. Driving consumes 43% of those barrels. (<http://www.californiabikecommute.com/FACTS.pdf>)
2. The U.S. could save 462 million gallons of gas a year by boosting bicycle trips just half a percentage point: from 1% to 1.5% of all trips. (TREK Bicycle Corporation) (<http://www.trifuel.com/people/jonathanfit/blog/2009/04/03/18512/trek-biking-facts-bike-commuting-5-reasons-to-bike-your-dri>)

### III. Air Pollution in Utah

1. Air pollution from vehicles accounts for more than half of the air pollution along the Wasatch Front (Deseret News, July 29, 2006) (Department of Environmental Quality) ([http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_qn4188/is\\_20060729/ai\\_n16646134/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4188/is_20060729/ai_n16646134/))
2. Two-stroke engines like lawnmowers and blowers often have no pollution control devices and can pollute the air even more than cars. (<http://www.lungusa.org/healthy-air/outdoor/protecting-your-health/protecting-yourself/>)

## IV. Ozone

1. Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), or smog, is an irritating, invisible gas that is formed most often by a reaction of sunlight and vapors emitted when fuel is burned by cars and trucks, factories, power plants and other sources. Smog usually peaks in the summer months, from May through October, when temperatures are highest and sunlight is strongest. (<http://www.lungusa.org/healthy-air/outdoor/resources/ozone.html>)

2. Gasoline emissions evaporate and contribute to the formation of ozone, a component of smog, as you fill up your gas tank. Filling up after dark will keep the sun from turning those gases into air pollution (<http://www.lungusa.org/healthy-air/outdoor/protecting-your-health/protecting-yourself/>)

## V. Commuters

1. Americans commute to work in single-occupant vehicles more than by any other method. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/aqfactbk/page06.htm>)

2. In 2000 it was estimated that 76% of the U.S. workforce drove to work alone. (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/aqfactbk/page06.htm>)

3. More than half of all Americans live less than five miles from where they work. (<http://www.californiabikecommute.com/FACTS.pdf>)

4. Traffic jams in the 29 major cities cost commuters an estimated \$24.3 billion each year. (<http://www.californiabikecommute.com/FACTS.pdf>)

## VI. Car Trips

1. 40% of all car trips in the U.S. are made within 2 miles of home. (TREK Bicycle Corporation) (<http://www.trifuel.com/people/jonathanfit/blog/2009/04/03/18512/trek-biking-facts-bike-commuting-5-reasons-to-bike-your-dri>)

2. Family and personal business—including window shopping, purchasing goods and services, doctor visits, picking up or dropping off someone, and other personal reasons, such as haircuts, banking, and car repair—account for about 45% of all trips. ([http://www.bts.gov/publications/highlights\\_of\\_the\\_2001\\_national\\_household\\_travel\\_survey/](http://www.bts.gov/publications/highlights_of_the_2001_national_household_travel_survey/))

## VII. Comparisons

1. If an individual switches a daily 20-mile round-trip commute to public transportation, his or her annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will fall by 4,800 pounds per year, equal to a 10% reduction in a two-car household's carbon footprint. (<http://www.publictransportation.org/facts/#hw12>)